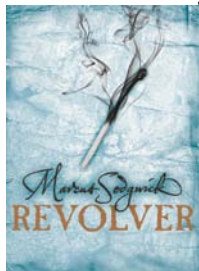


Reading Guide

Revolver by Marcus Sedgwick



Orion Children's Books
9781842551868
£9.99



The author:

Marcus Sedgwick began to write seriously in 1994, and his first book, *Floodland*, was published by Orion in 2000. *Witch Hill* followed in 2001, *The Dark Horse* in 2002 and *The Book of Dead* in 2004. Marcus illustrates some of his books. Other titles include *The Kiss of Death* and *My Swordhand is Singing* and *Blood Red Snow White*, which was first published to considerable acclaim in 2007. In his spare time, Marcus is a drummer and at the moment plays the part of Basil Exposition from behind the kit in The International Band of Mystery, an Austin Powers tribute band. He now happily writes full-time. Marcus lives in Cambridge and has a young daughter, Alice.

The book:

The year is 1910 and 14-year-old Sig Andersson lives with his father, sister and step-mother in a spartan log cabin north of the Arctic Circle. Life is hard and is about to get even harder, as Sig discovers the frozen body of his father lying on the lake outside his house. When a terrifying stranger arrives at the cabin to settle a long-held grudge, Sig realises there is more truth to his father's saying: 'even the dead tell stories', than he first realised.

Talking points:

- 'It wasn't God, or the Declaration of Independence that made all men equal. It was Samuel Colt.' Having read *Revolver*, what do you think about this quotation?
- 'Outside there was nothing but the wide and empty cold of the North.' How does the unforgiving landscape in which the story is set add to the atmosphere of the novel?
- How does Marcus Sedgwick build suspense and tension effectively in *Revolver*?
- 'To pull the trigger, or not to pull the trigger? It was such a tiny act, such a small difference between doing it and not doing it.' What would you have done if faced with Sig's dilemma?
- In his author's note Marcus Sedgwick says, 'I believe there's always a third option in life, it's just that sometimes it takes a little while to find it.' How far do you agree with this statement?
- 'Faith, Hope and Love. That was what Maria had tried to teach her children...' From the futile hopes of the gold miners, to the strength of Anna and Sig's love for each other, talk about the importance of these emotions in *Revolver*.

Read more:

The White Darkness by Geraldine McCaughrean

Wilderness by Roddy Doyle

Blood Red, Snow White by Marcus Sedgwick

More about Marcus Sedgwick:

Marcus Sedgwick's website: www.marcussedgwick.com

Sarra Manning at Hodder Children's Books: www.hodderchildrens.co.uk

The Booktrust Teenage Prize celebrates the best contemporary writing for young people

This guide provides information about some exciting online resources as well as ideas to trigger in-depth discussion during class or with a reading group. There are six guides, one for each of the 2010 shortlisted titles.